

3. Yes, letter of March 5, 1981, was received in the regional office on March 10, 1981, and a reply was forwarded March 13, 1981.

4. Yes.

[*Translation*]

**Madam Speaker:** The questions enumerated by the hon. parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

### BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—FUTURE FACING UNEMPLOYED  
CANADIANS

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West)** moved:

That this House expresses its sorrow and sympathy for the more than one million Canadians who are unable to find work and who, with their families, face an uncertain future, and urges the Prime Minister to endorse this sentiment by shuffling his cabinet.

He said: Madam Speaker, I rise in this House this afternoon to debate this motion with almost a sense of tragedy about what is and what might have been. I was reading this morning the front page of the *Toronto Star* of May 23, 1979. On that page there was a headline. Hon. members might remember that that was the day after the May 22 election in 1979. The headline read: "Joe sees growth, jobs and hope". Here we are, almost two years later, and we do not have the same sense of hope. We certainly have fewer jobs and more unemployed, and it is difficult to find anywhere in the actions of this government a true commitment to growth.

It is with that sense of reality, which I think all of us in this House have had to face, that I move this motion, which urges members of this House collectively—and perhaps particularly backbenchers in the Liberal Party—to express some sense of sorrow and sympathy for the more than one million unemployed in Canada today.

I think it is necessary for each and every one of us who accept the responsibility of sitting in this Parliament to accept responsibility for our actions. Particularly members of the governing party must accept some responsibility for their actions because it is they who time after time support a cabinet which seems to be less concerned about people and more concerned about political gain than is right or good for Canada. Without the support of those quiet tin soldier backbenchers, I wonder if the cabinet would have the courage to take us into the calamities which have characterized not only the last 12 months but a considerable period, approaching 12 years, prior to the last 12 months.

### *Unemployment*

In Canada today there are well in excess of one million adult Canadians who would like to make a contribution to this country and who would like the opportunity to work, to produce and, in return, to have an income and a sense of stability. They would like to enjoy the kinds of friendships which characterize the workplace for most of us. However, those one million Canadians cannot find jobs. The reason they cannot find jobs is to be found in the attitudes and the hypocrisy of a succession of Liberal cabinets which are and have been more concerned with political gain than with economic growth, development and a future for Canadians.

I think too often in this House we deal with the broad picture and tend to forget that we have a responsibility to legislate on behalf of the people of this country in ways which help them. When we are talking about one million unemployed Canadians, I wonder how often we in this House realize that one in ten adults who live on our blocks or in our apartment buildings is currently unemployed. Some time this year or in the year ahead one in five of those adults will face the trauma of wanting to work but not being able to find a job, at least for some period of time.

One young person in seven in this country faces the reality of wanting to get a start in life and have work experience but not being able to find a place to begin to build the kind of future they have been taught they have a right to expect and aspire to.

Hidden in the statistics of unemployment are the tragedies. How often do we in this House stop to think about the concept of work? It is easy, perhaps, to remember that work provides an income, and incomes are important. We need money to provide ourselves with shelter, food, transportation and clothing. There is a basic reason for wanting to work. However, there are other reasons that are just as important to people.

● (1510)

We sometimes forget that a great deal of our personal identity, our sense of self-worth, of who we are and what we are, comes from our relationship to the world of work. Out of that, we are likely to develop a sense of self-worth because we produce a product or a service. Hopefully those of us who sit in this House, from time to time at least, through the fruits of our labours are able to conclude that by being here it makes a difference; perhaps not every day but from time to time.

The work place is where a lot of Canadians get a great deal of their sense of self-worth. When we say to one million Canadians that they cannot have a job and be part of the work place, we are robbing them not only of the income they need and want but of that sense of self-worth, a sense of being able to make a contribution to our society.

The third element for most people, which goes along with being part of the work force, is the sense of friendship and companionship. For most people this flows out of a daily contact with fellow workers or customers, the social interactions that take place in the work force.

We are saying to these one million unemployed Canadians that they cannot have a decent income or the sense of self-